

Exhibit No. 1Date 1/21/2011Bill No. 8B132

The University of
Montana

Phyllis J. Washington
College of Education and Human Sciences
Communicative Sciences and Disorders
RiteCare Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
634 Eddy Ave
Missoula, MT 59812-6695
406 243-2405 Clinic 406 243-2363 Academic

The University of Montana program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) was reestablished in 2007 with legislative efforts by Senator Dave Wanzonreid. The University program was closed in 1988 because of financial problems. I became the first Chair of the new program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders in 2007 and the program now provides graduates with bachelors and masters degrees in speech,-language pathology for the State of Montana.

I am also licensed in Montana and certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to provide audiological services. I am an audiologist.

I have been an audiologist for over 35 years and have participated in education, research and governance in the profession of Audiology.

State of Montana Bill SB-132

"AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST SELLING, DISPENSING, OR FITTING HEARING AIDS IS NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSURE AS A HEARING AID DISPENSER; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 37-15-102, 37-15-103, 37-16-103, 8 37-16-401, AND 37-16-405, MCA."

The passage of this bill is clearly and unambiguously in the best interests of the State of Montana. The entry requirements for the state of Montana and nearly every other state require that licensed audiologists possess a Doctor of Audiology (AuD). A rigorous part of the training of audiologists includes the fitting of hearing aids and the completion of the AuD requires high proficiency in all areas of hearing aid practice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Al Yonovitz, PhD, CCC-A, Licensure Montana
Professor of Audiology



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Thank you!

2 messages

Tim and Mary Callahan <sti4211@blackfoot.net>

To: jessmann@mt.gov

Cc: Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 8:51 PM

Dear Senator Jeff Essmann ,

Thank you for introducing and supporting SB132. The Montana Audiology Guild (MAG) and the Montana Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) membership unanimously voted to support this bill. It has been needed for quite some time. Your effort in supporting the audiologists of Montana is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Mary Callahan

1020 MSHA President

Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

To: Tim and Mary Callahan <sti4211@blackfoot.net>

Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 10:22 PM

Mary, Thank you very much and very nice.
Darrell

[Quoted text hidden]



Leah Jacobsen, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Prescription Design H.A.C., Inc.
825 8th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59406
(406) 761-0611

January 17, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am president of the Montana Audiology Guild (MAG), which is affiliated with the Montana Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA). During our annual MAG conference in May 2010, the members of MAG discussed changing the statute for Audiologists in the state of Montana to separate from the Hearing Aid Dispensers for several reasons. MAG unanimously voted to proceed with the proposed change, which "removes the requirement for audiologists to have a Hearing Aid Dispensers license to sell hearing aids in the state of Montana." The bill is titled SB132.

As President of MAG, I also serve as a member at large on the MSHA board. Each year, MSHA holds their fall conference and the MSHA business meeting. MAG presented the proposal of SB132 to the MSHA board during the fall conference in October 2010. The MSHA board voted unanimously to support bill SB132.

Thank you,

Dr. Leah Jacobsen
President of Montana Audiology Guild



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

SB 132

JGreen@stpetes.org <JGreen@stpetes.org>

Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 2:10 PM

To: darrell.micken@gmail.com

Cc: HLawrie@stpetes.org, Senior_Management_Team@stpetes.org

Mr. Micken - I would like to offer my support for SB 132 which would eliminate the need for licensed audiologists to hold hearing aid dispensing license. Audiologists are qualified to fit and dispense hearing aids and having a separate license is unnecessary. It is also a large cost for an audiologist to bear, one that is higher than all other professional licenses. I appreciate your assistance in getting this fee discontinued.

John Green
Vice President - Finance
St. Peter's Hospital
2475 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601



Rocky Mountain Ear, Nose,
& Throat Center, P.C.

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Daniel E. Braby, M.D.
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Pediatric Otolaryngology

Peter G. Von Doersten, M.D.
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Rocky Mountain Hearing & Balance

(406) 541-3873
Glenn A. Hladek, M.S.
Lee Frantz Oines, M.A.
Jamie Small, M.A.

Members of the House,

January 21, 2011

This letter is in reference to SB 132. I am an audiologist working in an ENT practice in Missoula. I believe there will be ramifications to this bill that need to be addressed.

I agree audiologists are fully qualified to dispense hearing aids through their education, training, and certification. They should not be required to hold both licenses.

My concern about this bill is once the audiologists are no longer required to have a hearing aid dispensers license, the number of hearing aid licensees will drop significantly. At this point, it will be cost prohibitive to keep this board alive. Part of the reason this board has such high costs is due to the number of consumer complaints received. I am worried if this board is no longer viable, these consumer complaints will not have the review and oversight necessary. This may lead to some dispensers taking advantage of this situation and pushing the limits of the law.

Please keep this in mind when looking at this bill.

Sincerely,

Lee Frantz Oines, MA

Audiologist



WILL HELTON, AU.D., FAAA, CCC-A

1008 N. 7TH AVE. STE.H, BOZEMAN, MT 59715 ♦ TEL: 406-586-0914 ♦ FAX: 406-586-6667

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January 18, 2011

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Dear Montana Legislators,

Please support SB 132.

As a doctor of audiology I have ten years of college education in the fields of Speech Pathology, Audiology, and Linguistics. Many of the classes at the Master's and Doctoral level involve aural rehabilitation, effects of hearing on language perception, and auditory processing associated with the testing, fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments. I have also completed over three years of internships and a residency under the supervision of other doctors of audiology. Master's level audiologists have completed at least six years of college and a 9 month residency.

There is also a growing trend in our field to become Board Certified by the American Board of Audiology. Board Certification represents an even greater commitment to professionalism and ethical conduct. Requirements for Board Certification include passing a national examination and the completion of three times the number of advanced continuing education hours required by most states to maintain audiological licensure.

Additionally, Montana audiologists already maintain their own Board for self-regulation of education, training, and ethical practice.

In short, audiologists have far more education and training than hearing aid dispensers, diagnose and treat a much wider variety of patients' ills and are already regulated by an appropriate governing board in Montana. As there are no other doctors who fall under the jurisdiction of governing boards with lesser standards, I believe it is unfair that audiologists have such a requirement. I urge you again to support SB 132.

Sincerely,

Will Helton, Au.D., FAAA, CCC-A
Board Certified Doctor of Audiology

From: Susan Kalarchik (bcheating@yahoo.com)

To: scnbales@wbaccess.net; Joebalyeat@yahoo.com; gbarkus@gmail.com; Grt3177@smtel.com; blacks@3rivers.net; Garybranae@gmail.com; senatorbrenden@gmail.com; brown.roy@bresnan.net; Taylor@northernbroadcasting.com; John@senatorjohn.net; cooneyemail@aol.com; aubyna@interbel.net; Nancron@aol.com; johnesp2001@yahoo.com; jeff@jeffessmann.com; Steve.gallus@gmail.com; gebby@midrivers.com; Glonky@aol.com; Wranglergallery@hotmail.com; hansen_kenneth@email.com; R_hawks@imt.net; ghinklesd7@gmail.com; vjack@centurytel.net; larry@imt.net; csjuneau@3rivers.net; Kaufmann@mt.net; ricklaible@aol.com; Cliff@larsenusa.com; Jesselaz@yahoo.com; davelewis@aol.com; Lyndamoss@imt.net; perrysd35@aol.com; jpranch@mtintouch.net; Ripleys@3rivers.net; trudischmidt@q.com; jschockley@mt.gov; sqigs@msn.com; Donstein@midrivers.com; apsaalookewomen@yahoo.com; rstory@mt.gov; joestro@q.com; tropila@mt.net; Tutvedt@montanasky.us; daveew@gmail.com; Cwilliams@montanadsl.net; Windyboy_j@yahoo.com; ryan@zinkeforsenate.com;

Date: Mon, January 17, 2011 6:33:22 PM

Cc:

Subject: SUPPORT SB132 short title, allows audiologists to sell hearing aids without a sepearte hearing aid license

Dear Senators:

Please SUPPORT SB132. I am a Doctor of Audiology (AuD) in MT and am required to hold a license with the MT State Board of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists as well as a license with the MT Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers. Rules and regs currently state that all people selling a hearing aid need a license to do so, although there are no considerations for an audiologist. As an Au.D., I have my doctorate in audiology (8 years of college) and all yearly continuing education credits necessary to maintain licensure. A hearing aid dispenser is only required to have a high school diploma and minimal training. The cost of an audiology license is \$100 per year to renew and the hearing aid dispensing license is now up to \$650.00 to renew. I am required to be licensed with both boards. SB132 will allow qualified audiologists to only be licensed with our main board of SLP and AUDS while being allowed to dispense hearing aids in MT. We would still have to continue obtaining all necessary training and continuing ed credits, as always. Thank you so much for your time and consideration in this very important matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Kalarchik, Au.D.

Doctor of Audiology

BC Hearing, Butte

406-494-3995



Darrell Micken <darrell.micken@gmail.com>

Support of SB 132

1 message

M.Dixon <mmdix@bresnan.net>

Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 9:57 AM

To: darrell.micken@gmail.com

Cc: HLawrie@stpetes.org

Dear Dr. Micken:

I am writing in support of SB 132 that would eliminate the need for licensed audiologists in Montana to purchase a hearing aid dispensing license. The training for an audiologist thoroughly includes fitting, programming and dispensing hearing aids. In fact, they are the most qualified when it comes to fitting hearing aids and also indentifying medical issues for patients. To have a very expensive and redundant additional license serves no purpose and is an unnecessary financial burden. There has been a substantial increase in this particular fee and it is also separate and additional to the audiologist license fee required.

Given the required audiology license and the thorough hearing aid fitting and dispensing education encompassed in an audiology degree, I see no reason for this redundant and expensive additional licensure.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Dixon, M.D.

B.C. Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery



a member of AUDIGY GROUP

January 20, 2011

Dr. Helen Hallenbeck
Board Certified Audiologist

Larry Wundrow, M.S., CCC-A
Audiologist

Dr. Jennifer Hartze
Audiologist

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of SB132 which allows audiologists to dispense hearing aids without a dispensing license. I have been licensed in Montana as both an audiologist and hearing aid dispenser and have worked in a private practice since 1992 providing hearing services to all age groups. In graduate school to receive my Master's degree, I had classes in amplification and aural rehabilitation in addition to working at a private audiology practice fitting hearing aids, reprogramming, hearing aid maintenance, etc. providing me with practical experience as well. Since becoming licensed, I returned to school and received my doctorate in Audiology in 2001 expanding my knowledge in all aspects of the hearing and vestibular systems. Over the past 18 years, I have attended annual audiology conferences, both at the state and national level, receiving continuing education units required by law but also to maintain the level of proficiency and knowledge necessary to provide my patients with the best possible hearing healthcare.

The two main audiology organizations, American Academy of Audiology and the Academy of Doctors of Audiology both recognize hearing aid dispensing as within our scope of practice. From the AAA and ADA websites defining scope of practice for audiologists:

*The audiologist is the professional who provides services for persons with hearing impairment and balance disorders. The audiologist is responsible for the evaluation and fitting of amplification devices, including assistive listening devices. The audiologist determines the appropriateness of amplification systems for persons with hearing impairment, evaluates benefit, and provides counseling and training regarding their use. Audiologists conduct otoscopic examinations, clean ear canals and remove cerumen, take appropriate ear canal impressions including deep canal impressions for middle ear implantable amplification devices. **They prescribe, fit, sell, and dispense hearing aids and other amplification systems.** Audiologists diagnose and provide management for persons with tinnitus using techniques that include, but are not limited to, biofeedback, masking, hearing aids, education, counseling, and tinnitus retraining therapy. (www.audiology.org and www.audiologist.org)*

Based on our education and requirements for graduation from an accredited university, audiologists are qualified to perform the necessary tests for evaluation and treatment for hearing impairment and should not need to be dually licensed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hartze, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology